

(b) by when this work is expected to be completed;

(c) whether in view of heavy traffic on this National Highway Government feel that four-lane arrangement is adequate or it may be extended to six-lane in future; and

(d) the alternative arrangements being made by Government to avoid disorder in smooth flow of traffic during Kanvad yatra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The stretch of National Highway from Delhi to Meerut is already four-laned. Meerut to Muzaffarnagar stretch has already been awarded for four-laning and work is in progress. Bids for four-laning of National Highway-58 from Muzaffarnagar to Haridwar are to be invited once again by National Highways Authority of India on Build Operate Transfer (BOT) basis. It is premature to indicate the completion date of four-laning of National Highway-58, up to Haridwar at present.

(c) Keeping in view the heavy traffic, preparation of Detailed Project Report for six-laning of Delhi/Uttar Pradesh Border to Meerut section of National Highway-58 has been taken up under National Highway Development Project Phase-III-A.

(d) This Ministry is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. Widening of National Highway-58 is proposed to facilitate traffic movement on it to Haridwar.

Widening of Highways

2539. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of approximately 66,000 km. of highways in India, only 6000 km. highways have four lanes;

(b) whether Government are of the view that given a high growth rate of interest Vehicular traffic, even four-laned highways will prove to be insufficient to handle traffic in near future; and

(c) if so, the details of any schemes by Government to widen the remaining length of highways into four-lanes or six-lanes alongwith estimated date of completion of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) There are about 66,590 kilometers of National Highways in the country and out of which about 7699 kilometers length is of four-lane and above standard.

(b) and (c) The development of National Highways including widening to 4/6 lane standard is a continuous process and depends upon the traffic, its growth, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds. Accordingly, the Government has taken up several projects for improvement of National highways including four laning, six laning and construction of expressways under the various schemes as National Highways Development Project (NHDP), Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North East region (SARDP-NE) and under the Annual Programme of the Department of Road Transport and Highways. The details of such approved projects are given below. These are in addition to 4/6 laning of National highways under the ongoing NHDP Phase I and Phase II.

Schemes	Work	Length in Km	Targeted Date of Completion
NHDP Phase IIIA	Upgradation & 4-laning of National Highways	4035 km	Year 2009
NHDP Phase V	6-laning of National Highways	6500 km	Year 2012
NHDP Phase VI	Construction of Expressways	1000 km	Year 2015
SARDP-NE Phase A	Upgradation & 4-laning of National Highways	458 km	Year 2009
Annual Programme for the National Highways entrusted with State Govt.	Upgradation & 4-laning of National Highways	44 km	Year 2008